

February 27, 2009

**Notice of the 2009 Assessment Rates for the
California Processing Tomato Inspection Program**

TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES:

Upon a recommendation from the Processing Tomato Advisory Board (Board), the California Department of Food and Agriculture has established a base inspection assessment rate of \$8.00 per load of processing tomatoes for the 2009 season. This is a \$0.25 per load decrease from the base rate that was in effect for the 2008 season.

The assessment rate applies to loads of processing tomatoes weighing more than six tons that are delivered by California producers for inspection at stations operated by the California Processing Tomato Inspection Program. This assessment is shared equally among the producer and the processor. Namely, a base rate of \$4.00 per load is levied on the producer and a base rate of \$4.00 per load is levied on the processor. The actual inspection assessment will vary by inspection station, based on a three-year average of labor productivity at each station. A schedule of assessment rates by inspection station is enclosed.

Loads of processing tomatoes weighing six tons or less are not required to be inspected, but are subject to an administrative-only assessment. The administrative-only assessment rate for the 2009 season is \$0.10 per ton, which is the same as last season's rate. This assessment is shared and handled in the same manner as the assessment on inspected loads.

The Board will be sending out assessment forms to processors prior to the beginning of the season. Processors are authorized and required to deduct the producer's share of assessments due from any monies owed to producers from whom they received processing tomatoes.

All assessments due under the California Processing Tomato Inspection Program should be remitted directly to the Processing Tomato Advisory Board. Checks should be made payable to the Processing Tomato Advisory Board and sent to:

Processing Tomato Advisory Board
P. O. Box 1800
Davis, CA 95617-1800

(Over)



Assessment payments are due and payable on the first day of each week following the week in which processing tomatoes are received for inspection from producers. If assessments are not paid (postmarked) by the first day of the week following the week in which they are due, they will be considered delinquent. Processors whose assessment payments are delinquent may be subject to the penalty provisions of the Food and Agricultural Code.

If you have any questions regarding the assessment rates for the California Processing Tomato Inspection Program, please contact Tom Ramme, Manager of the Processing Tomato Advisory Board, at (530) 759-7501 or Joe Monson with the Marketing Branch at (916) 341-6005.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert Maxie". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Robert Maxie, Chief
Marketing Branch

Enclosure